John Day Interagency Dispatch News Release



Malheur National Forest



Oregon Department of Forestry

July 27, 2010 5:00 p.m. Update

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Firefighters Continue To Fight Lighting Caused Wildfires

John Day, OR – Firefighters are successfully battling a series of fires sparked by recent thunderstorms on lands managed by the Malheur National Forest and the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF).

Thunderstorm activity the past few days has been significant, with multiple lightning strikes starting many fires in the area.

As of 4:30 p.m. today, Malheur National Forest Crews are staffing eight fires, while ODF crews are not staffing any active fires. Earlier in the day, ODF crews staffed one fire while Forest Service crews staffed three additional fires; at this time those fires have been extinguished. Firefighters have worked hard to keep most fires under an acre in size. The largest fires were located in the Beech Creek area; one fire was 10 acres in size, while the second was 4 acres.

A Red Flag Warning is in effect until 11 p.m. Wednesday, for thunderstorms with lightning and insufficient moisture.

To report a fire, please call 541-575-1321.

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USFS/ODF

*John Day Interagency Dispatch is an interagency communication-dispatching center, supporting lands in Eastern Oregon protected by the Oregon Department of Forestry, Malheur National Forest, Bureau of Land Management, and National Park Service.

The mission of the USDA Forest Service is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the Nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations. The Agency manages 193 million acres of public land, provides assistance to State and private landowners, and maintains the largest forestry research organization in the world.